

Beatley notes, “Many of these protected areas are relatively short distances from major urban centers, notably Los Angeles and San Francisco. These have the potential, with the right shift in our urban mental maps, to become the equivalent of the extended landscapes and regional parks that are common in terrestrial settings” (93).

Ultimately, Beatley says we need “a new urban culture that is profoundly aware of its ocean and marine context . . . a new urban sensibility that not only recognizes oceans but makes them the central organizing framework and narrative to our lives on this indisputably blue planet” (xviii). He acknowledges that this will take more than better land use plans and building codes. It will require a citizenry that cares about oceans and the diversity of marine life. He describes numerous ways for cities to promote such a bond, mostly by supporting educational and recreational activities sponsored by partner organizations—including ocean-themed public art, aquaria, outdoor nature programs, whale watching, boating, citizen science programs, and volunteer habitat restoration projects. The goal is to connect people to the marine world and foster “ocean literacy.”

As a call for a new planning orientation and urban culture, *Blue Urbanism* strikes an optimistic and hopeful tone. The aim is to promote a shift in awareness—and also to show that this shift is already happening in many cities around the world. However, the book does not go far beyond its collection of stories about local, small-scale efforts. It is a short book to sketch out a vision for blue urbanism to a general audience. As such, it contains little evaluation or analysis.

Still, it is a good introduction, and it is an important vision to elucidate. The world’s oceans are being pushed to the brink of ecological collapse by climate change (which is raising water temperatures and increasing acidity faster than marine life can adapt), nutrient pollution (which is creating anoxic dead zones), overfishing, and other human impacts. So far, the world community has been unable to alter these trends, in large part because change requires doing difficult things like challenging the political power of fossil fuel interests, addressing the inequities between rich and poor nations, and questioning the consumer economy’s imperative for continual, unsustainable growth.

The hope of blue urbanism is that, if more of the world’s urban residents can be inspired to feel a stronger connection to the oceans, they will act to reduce their harmful impacts at the local level. Then, perhaps, they will be more open to thinking about the bigger political, economic, and moral issues. Perhaps they will engage politically and push for the big changes—like a fee on carbon-based fuels—that will really work to reduce the terrible risks to the stability of the biosphere that supports human civilization on this small, blue planet.

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Martinez-Cosio, Maria, and Mirle Rabinowitz Bussell. 2013. *Catalysts for Change: Twenty-first Century Philanthropy and Community Development*. New York: Routledge. 192 pp. \$47.95 (paperback). ISBN 978-0-41568-323-4

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As the federal government has retreated from a central role in defining and funding community development efforts since the 1980s, the role of philanthropy has risen. During the War on Poverty, such efforts were federally funded and married with civil rights’ movement political empowerment goals. They were also influenced by previous Foundation-supported efforts. Political pushback and the sharp federal retreat since the Reagan Administration opened the door wide for a more central role for philanthropies. With limited federal resources most readily available for housing, practice narrowed and was often led by increasingly professionalized community development corporations. Yet ongoing challenges facing “rebuilt” communities led leading funders and practitioners to experiment with broader, community-wide strategies. Several large national foundations began to support “comprehensive community initiatives” (CCIs), with HUD providing some support. Past research on these efforts has focused on evaluation of outcomes and process at the level of the initiative and has emphasized measurable outcomes across sites.

*Catalysts for Change* contributes to a small but growing body of literature about the role of foundations in efforts to catalyze community development through comprehensive, place-based philanthropy, often in partnership with public funders. The authors push the discussion deeper by proposing a new conceptual frame for understanding these efforts: systems theory. They argue that understanding these efforts in the context of the systems operating within and beyond communities can improve both practice and evaluation of results.

This volume is part of the Community Development Research and Practice series, begun in 2012 and edited by Rhonda Phillips, editor of *Community Development: Journal of the Community Development Society*. The series is intended to build a knowledge base for both practitioners and researchers. *Catalysts for Change* was awarded the Community Development Society’s 2014 Current Research Award.

The volume is divided into two main sections. The first section provides both the historical context and a theoretical lens for understanding current foundation engagement in community development. In chapter 1, the authors present the rationale for the volume, arguing that “the role of foundations as key actors in revitalizing urban neighborhoods is undertheorized” (5). Their focus is on the subset of foundations going beyond the role of funder to engage directly in comprehensive community change initiatives as public sector funds and programs retreat from community revitalization. While such efforts are rooted in an understanding that social, physical, and economic challenges in low-income communities are interconnected and require a holistic response, the authors argue that there is no grand theory to guide such responses—so it is not only the foundation role whose theoretical basis they are critiquing. By exploring two contrasting cases in San Diego, they propose to apply a systems lens to highlight the importance of local context to judging the success of such efforts.

Chapter 2 situates community development philanthropy in a broader historical context, with a focus on the connection between philanthropy and government antipoverty initiatives, and also the dramatic growth in innovative foundation initiatives since the 1980s. Foundations arguably have played a strategic role in stimulating policy innovation and as funders in periods of public retrenchment.

Chapter 3 focuses on current foundation support for community development, describing the charitable foundations operating in this realm, including private foundations, community foundations, funder collaboratives, and health care conversion foundations established as a result of the sale of for profit hospitals. They highlight foundation-led social change initiatives beginning in the 1950s that laid the foundation for current comprehensive community initiatives.

Chapter 4 introduces and describes the range of activities falling under the heading “comprehensive community initiatives.” CCIs range widely in their approach, making it difficult to identify replicable best practices. The authors review sixty foundation initiatives to identify two primary roles: supporters and managing partners. An appendix presents more detailed information on foundations involved in nineteen CCIs, including each foundation’s governing principles, funding, program dimensions and outcomes, and accountability (e.g., how the foundation evaluates and reports results).

In chapter 5, the authors briefly discuss systems theory as a lens for understanding the context for CCIs and for foundation roles in them. By understanding these efforts as embedded in complex systems, and as systems themselves, they call attention to the importance of collaboration among systems or elements of a system. The starting point for such collaboration must be a shared definition of the problem confronting the system—a tall order in practice. Foundations themselves are also described as systems, with their own internal values and theories of change. The authors’ brief

review of the theories guiding foundation efforts since the 1980s describes how dominant theories regarding community change have framed both local efforts and thinking about replication of strategies across sites. They briefly discuss two foundation-led community development efforts, one in Los Angeles, the other in Dallas, to illustrate the challenges of engaging both internal and external systems in CCIs.

In the second section of the book, the authors examine two case studies from different low-income neighborhoods in San Diego. Both feature family foundations as “managing partners.” They contrast strongly because of their internal theories about the best way to foster community development. Chapter 6 introduces the context for these efforts and makes clear the lack of funding for key city services in both communities. In this sense, both efforts represent attempts to compensate for this lack of spending and ongoing attention to community needs. Nonetheless, the city’s smart growth plan had designated “urban villages” in both communities, offering them the opportunity to engage city leaders through their work at these sites. The community development systems in the two areas contrast in the strength of their local nonprofit and social service networks and in their size and demographics. The City Heights neighborhood presents the strongest social infrastructure, yet is slightly poorer and denser than the Diamond neighborhoods of Southeast San Diego. Most importantly, the two foundations operate under very different theories of change. How these theories mesh with the systems operating in their target areas is the implicit focus of the authors’ analysis. The Jacobs Family Foundation (JFF) is strongly focused on building community capacity and ownership of community development efforts, while Price Charities (PC) is focused on physical development and leveraging both public and private funds. The contrasting stories that emerge in the following chapters highlight the challenges associated with each approach. JFF has been successful in building partnerships with some segments of the community and at fostering an open, participatory process. Their work is well documented. In part because of this emphasis on process, development, while substantial, has been slow. And despite their efforts, there is still a lack of trust of the foundation among some segments of the community. PC was more successful in partnering with city agencies and more strategic in building these relationships. It moved quickly to build significant community assets, partnering with the city to speed up the provision of new schools and other services. However, this speed and its lack of commitment to resident engagement undermined trust among residents. In addition, it lacked commitment to development in service of the most vulnerable or lowest-income members of the community. In fact, its projects resulted in significant displacement. In short, it was a successful developer of community goods but it is not clear that its work fits the definition of CCIs because of the lack of concern for current residents. The authors argue that in both cases, the approach

taken should be assessed based on its fit with local systems. Recasting the story this way allows the authors to justify both PC's focus on physical renewal and JFF's focus on building community capacity. Yet their conclusion returns us to key elements of CCIs as community development: the development of trust among local actors and the foundation, and the transparency of privately held foundations about their mission.

In sum, *Catalysts for Change* is a valuable addition to the community development literature. Its focus on systems as a way to understand the context for these efforts is important. Their focus on the role of foundations is refreshing, and conclusions regarding the importance of community trust and accountability are spot on and call into question the legitimacy of some efforts as community development. At the same time, the volume disappoints in a few areas. The first section of the book spends too much time on a very general history of antipoverty philanthropy and comparatively little time on developing a deeper understanding of the workings of CCIs from existing evaluative literature. In addition, lack of discussion of Yin's influential work on defining a community development industry system in Cleveland was puzzling (Yin 1998). The volume would also be strengthened by more explicit discussion of research methodology, especially case study selection and research methods. Why was only the "managing partner" foundation role explored in the cases? Why was the PC case selected despite the foundation's apparent rejection of resident engagement—one of the core tenets of CCIs presented earlier in the volume?

## Reference

Yin, Jordan S. 1998. "The Community Development Industry System: A Case Study of Politics and Institutions in Cleveland." *Journal of Urban Affairs* 20 (2): 137–57.

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Wachter, Kenneth T. 2014. *Essential Demographic Methods*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press. 288 pp. \$59.95 (hardback). ISBN 978-0-674-04557-6

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As its name implies, the book is centered on providing a foundation for individuals interested in the core methods within the field of demography. The book's intent is to provide extensive working knowledge of the major components to population dynamics. Fertility, mortality, and migration as the three demographic processes of change are covered in this text in great detail, although the first two processes of fertility and mortality are covered much more than the third (migration). The book also provides a solid foundation for understanding general population dynamics regarding age, period,

and cohort effects on the three processes of change. Wachter clearly and succinctly lays out everything one needs to know about population characteristics and dynamics in this book, and he does it in a very accessible manner.

Relative to other demographic methods textbooks, Wachter's text provides a substantial amount of information that can benefit those individuals who have never been exposed to the field of demography, those who need a refresher, or those who would like a deeper understanding of the mathematical components to formal demographic techniques. Because of its versatility to appeal to different audiences, this book can easily become a favorite go-to resource among students, faculty, and professionals in the field.

While its broad appeal is a major strength of the book, there are other equally compelling qualities that the text possesses that are worth mentioning. Wachter writes in a way that is accessible to virtually everyone; however, he does include more sophisticated language for those who have a working knowledge of calculus. In this regard, professors may use this book in graduate-level or very advanced undergraduate courses. Yet, one does not need to have taken calculus to follow along in the text. In fact, the sections where more mathematically sophisticated knowledge is necessary to understand some advanced component to demography are marked with an asterisk, so it is easy to skip should one feel compelled to do so.

As with any instructional aid, it is critical that the application of the material be clear and relevant to the reader. This particular text does an outstanding job in this domain. Demographic techniques can be used to model any living populations, and some techniques are derived from actuarial sciences so it is possible to craft examples that are not pertinent to the study of human populations or are not social science oriented in nature. Wachter intentionally uses national and international data to provide clear examples to illustrate the application of concepts and formulas in demography. The graphs and tables that are used to supplement what has been written in the text are also easily understandable and clearly presented. Individuals will have little difficulty in following along with the complexities of demographic techniques.

One might assume that because of my substantive research interest in health and well-being, I would be partial to Wachter's chapters that discussed mortality. While he does a great job in discussing methods for studying mortality, I found his chapters on fertility (chapters 4 and 6) to be the most enjoyable. Most demographers would contend that fertility is much more multifaceted than mortality (and much more nuanced!). However, the author presents the most crucial components to studying period and cohort fertility in a way that does not confuse the reader. In effect, he was able to distill the complexities of fertility into more manageable information that is clear, which I appreciated and I feel others would appreciate as well.

While this book has some clear advantages over other demographic textbooks, there are some limitations and areas